

21st Century, I am confident that this wonderful tribute to James Whitcomb Riley will continue to make a brighter horizon for our children.

# LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE REHABILITATION OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM ON THE JICARILLA APACHE RESERVATION

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill to authorize and direct the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a feasibility study with regards to the rehabilitation of the municipal water system of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, located in the State of New Mexico. I am very pleased to be joined by several of my colleagues in the introduction of this important bill—including the other two Representatives from New Mexico, Congressman SKEEN and Congresswoman WILSON; as well as Congressmen KILDEE, HAYWORTH, YOUNG, MILLER, KENNEDY, and BECERRA.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the Jicarilla Apache Reservation relies on one of the most unsafe municipal water systems in the country. While the system is a federally owned entity, the Environmental Protection Agency has nevertheless found the system to be in violation of national safe drinking water standards for several years running—and, since 1995, the water system has continually failed to earn renewal of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination permit.

The sewage lagoons of the Jicarilla water system are now operating well over 100 percent capacity—spilling wastewater into the nearby arroyo that feeds directly into the Navajo River. Since this river serves as a primary source of groundwater for the region, the resulting pollution of the stream not only affects the Reservation but also travels downstream—creating public health hazards for families and communities both within and well beyond the Reservation's borders. Alarming, Jicarilla youth are now experiencing higher than normal incidences of internal organ diseases affecting the liver, kidneys and stomach—ailments suspected to be related to the contaminated water.

Moreover, because of the lack of sufficient water resources, the Jicarilla Tribe is not only facing considerable public health concerns, but it has also necessarily had to put a brake on other important community improvement efforts, including the construction of much needed housing and the replacement of deteriorating public schools. For all of these reasons, the Tribal Council has declared a state of emergency for the Reservation and has already appropriated over \$4.5 million of its own funds to begin the process of rehabilitating the water system.

Following a disastrous 6-day water outage last October, the Jicarilla investigated and discovered the full extent of the deplorable condition of the water system. Acting immediately to address the problem, the tribe promptly contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service, the Environmental Protection

Agency and other entities for help in relieving their situation. Yet, due to budget constraints and other impediments, these agencies were unable to provide financial assistance or take any other substantial action to address the problem. In particular, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, having found itself to be poorly suited for the operation and maintenance of tribal water systems, has discontinued its policy of operating its own tribal water systems in favor of transferring ownership directly to the tribes. Unfortunately, however, the dangerous condition of the Jicarilla water system precludes its transfer to the tribe until it has been rehabilitated.

Fortunately, the Bureau of Reclamation is appropriately suited to assist the Jicarilla Apache and the BIA in assessing the feasibility of rehabilitating the tribe's water system. In consultation with the Jicarilla Tribe, the Bureau of Reclamation has indicated both its willingness and its ability to complete the feasibility study should it be authorized to do so as required by law. Recognizing this as the most promising solution for addressing the serious water safety problems plaguing the Jicarilla, I and my fellow cosponsors are introducing this important bill to allow this process to move forward. I hope the rest of our colleagues will similarly join us in passing this bill to remedy this distressing situation.

## A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF BAY COUNTY WOMEN'S CENTER

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization which has done much to increase awareness of domestic violence in the United States as well as in my home town of Bay City, Michigan. The Bay County Women's Center provides essential support services for victims of physical or sexual assault, many of whom are women in violent domestic situations.

The Women's Center was established in 1975 by twelve dedicated volunteers who had recognized the need for a local support organization which provided essential services for abused persons. The Center now offers victims a wide range of crisis intervention services, such as counseling, advocacy, information and referral services, as well as extensive community education services. This means that a woman who is being abused has someone to turn to twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. The Women's Center has truly proved to be the saving grace for thousands upon thousands of women.

Mr. Speaker, the statistics on domestic violence are staggering. Approximately one family in three will experience domestic violence. And in our country, four women are killed each day by their husband or partner. The victim is killed by someone who, if one uses traditional marriage vows, has promised "to cherish and honor until death do us part"—which, of course, is a far cry from "to cherish and honor until I decide to kill you". Battery and abuse are particularly horrific because they destroy a sacred bond through violence, and leave these women isolated from their community, their family and in mortal fear of their partner.

The Bay County Women's Center, funded in part by the United Way of Bay County, and sustained by many dedicated and caring individuals, is an organization which is a model for all community agencies devoted to protecting adults and child victims against domestic violence and sexual assault. This month is designated National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and to mark this, the Women's Center plans their annual Candlelight Vigil for survivors to domestic violence. The Center is committed to ending domestic violence in Bay County, and for that very fact, it deserves our respect. Mr. Speaker, I invite you and all our colleagues to join me in honoring the work of the Bay County Women's Center. May I also offer my deepest condolences to the victims of domestic violence, and my support for all the survivors. It is my sincerest hope that with the guiding example of the Bay County Women's Center, we can all join together to work against the horrific crime of domestic violence and abuse.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on October 4, 1999, I was unavoidably detained and consequently missed two votes. Had I been here I would have voted: "Yes" on the passage of H. Res. 181. "Yes" on the passage of H.R. 1451.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO FRANZ FRUEHWIRTH ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE FLORICULTURE HALL OF FAME

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, my district in San Diego is home to some of our nation's largest flower growers. This industry plays a key role in the economy of San Diego County, the state of California, and the entire country. Flower growers, wholesalers, and retail shops produce a product that makes all of our lives more beautiful.

Last week, the Society of American Florists recognized the achievements of two outstanding individuals in the floral industry. I want to personally commend one of those individuals, who also happens to be my constituent. The Society of American Florists gave out its highest award—induction into the Floriculture Hall of Fame—to Franz Fruehwirth, a scientist, inventor and breeder for the Paul Ecke Ranch, in Encinitas, California.

We should thank Franz every time a poinsettia—the number one flowering potted plant in the United States—is bought, sold and enjoyed. As one of the premier poinsettia breeders in the world, Franz has created many "firsts," including Lilo, the first long-lasting, dark leaf poinsettia that set the standard for all future varieties. He also created the first yellow poinsettia, "Lemon Drop." He bred the